

Vidor, Tx.

10/10/71

1/19/75

Anahuac, TX

3/14/93

1/10/99

The Offense of the Cross



THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS

Introduction:

1. Gal 5:1-16 (vs 11)--Offense, Stumbling ^{block} of the cross.
2. For the Jew the death of the Messiah, accursed death of cross was a stumbling-block, hindrance, obstacle to obedience.
3. What! The Messiah crucified! Never!--1 Cor 1:23
4. Then on top of that---that the cross did away with the Law Their ceremonial ordinances abrogated, removed.
5. Also, obedience to the law for salvation had been lifted.
6. But the crowning blow! Jew and Gentile now alike, no wall of separation! Why circumcision was such a problem to Jews.
7. The cross continues to be a stumbling-block to mankind:
Could the cross be an offense to YOU???

I. OFFENSIVE BECAUSE IT REVEALS THE MAJESTY OF THE DIVINE LAW WHICH NECESSITATED SUCH AN OFFERING:

1. This is an age of "freedom"--freedom gone to seed.
2. As men rebel against authority, they make liberty into license--thus a rule of "might makes right"--Jungle law.
3. Gal 6:7--becomes offensive to them.
4. To the cynical, sensual, materialistic, cross is offensive.
5. Today--people (not all) do not wish to accept fact that we have a responsibility to someone higher than self.
6. It demands putting self subservient, second--Christ first.
THUS WHEN ONE IS CALLED UPON TO OBEY--OFFENDS

II. OFFENSIVE TO WORLDLY-MINDED BECAUSE IT REVEALS FACT OF SIN

1. Man is inclined to explanations: Explain everything logical
2. But man shies away from sin, because it condemns him.
3. In many pulpits, the subject of sin is a no-no; and then when discussed it is explained, or excused.
Often we excuse sin in young people--"they're young you know"
4. Our generation prides itself in its culture, refinement, respectability---BUT DON'T TELL US WE ARE SINNERS.
5. Rom 6:23; 3:23--The cross declares that SIN IS A FACT IN THE LIFE OF EVERY HUMAN BEING--OFFENSIVE
1 John 1:7-20--BLOOD OF JESUS MUST BE CONTACTED:
Acts 22:16
UNLESS YOU HAVE REACHED THE BLOOD OF JESUS STILL IN SIN--
IF IN SIN--LOST--John 8:21

III. OFFENSIVE BECAUSE IT DECLARES THE WAGES OF SIN:

1. Rom 6:23
2. Many today think death is a "delusion" In the mind.
3. By sin came death--1 Cor 15:21

IV. OFFENSIVE BECAUSE IT REVEALS MAN'S HELPLESSNESS:

1. Man is a proud, boastful creature; self-centered; self-dependent--Does not like to hear his need of anything.
2. Man propose many remedies for sin, brought from Hell itself
3. "Our hope is in the advance of scientific knowledge of evolution and growth of the democratic spirit" Ly Abbott
But these have proven fruitless.
4. Move now to make this world a utopia--never will be accomplished
5. ONLY ONE CURE FOR SIN---THE BLOOD OF CHRIST JESUS:
ONLY ONE MEANS OF APPLICATION---PREACHING OF THE CROSS.

V. OFFENSIVE BECAUSE IT REVEALS THE ETERNAL HOPELESSNESS OF EVERY HUMAN BEING WHO "NEGLECTS SO GREAT A SALVATION"

1. As long as sin reigns in the soul--eternal condemnation
2. The verdict of death in sin---DEPART!!!
3. The cross demands that one must forsake cherished sins AS PAINFUL AS IT IS, MUST CRUCIFY THE FLESH. Gal 2:20
This demands self-sacrifice, take up cross and follow.
4. Here again the cross becomes offensive***
ITS REQUIREMENTS ARE TOO HIGH.

*More than many are willing to pay.
Why, there are other places to go on Lord's Day, you know I only get 2 days a week off.*

CONCLUSION:

1. Jn 16:8--H. S. to convict the world of sin, righteous....
2. Through the Word of God--1 Cor 1:21; Rom 10:14-17
3. Acts 2:23, 26--First sermon--denunciation of their sins.
"pricked in their hearts"
4. The Cross must be preached--2 Tim 4:2
5. 1 Cor 2:2--know nothing "save Jesus Christ, and him crucified"

1. Drunkard - Alcoholic
2. Homosexual - Life style